



The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

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National Grants Committee Report

Chair: Nick Wiley

Meeting of September 12, 2016

Marriott Downtown Philadelphia

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Committee Charge

Meeting convened during 10:15AM – 11:00AM EST chaired by Nick Wiley. 20 participants in attendance, including 5 (out of 8) current Committee members:

- Nick Wiley (Chair)
- Virgil Moore (Vice Chair)
- Ed Carter (Member)
- Cathy Sparks (Member)
- Tony Wasley (Member)

Scheduled Discussion Items

- Call to Order, Introductions, Announcements, and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 10:15AM. The Committee Chair, Nick Wiley welcomed all the attendees and asked the participants to introduce themselves.

- Approval of the March 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from March 2016 in Pittsburg were approved.

- Review of Full Grant Proposals and Selection of Programs for the National Grants Committee's Priority List

Nick introduced the participants to the Multistate Conservation Grants process, proposals submitted for 2017 cycle as well as the limited budget for the 2017 cycle. 12 NCNs were approved for this cycle, 24 Letters of Intent (LOIs) were submitted and 18 LOIs were selected for Full Proposal submission. Due to the limitations on funds only 17 proposals were approved, 14 proposals fully funded, 2 proposals offered 14% saving on funds due to labor combination and 2 proposals were partly funded.

It's important to mention that proposers were very flexible and offered creative ways to cut off on their budgets and made it possible for almost all grants requested to be approved.

AFWA is continuing to reduce (as painful as that is) the amount of money that comes out of MSCGP for AFWA projects although a lot of those funds are used to support states.

- Discussion on modifications to the Grant Proposal Template

It looks like the current Proposal Template doesn't align very well with the scoring criteria making it a little harder for the NGC members to review and score those proposals. AFWA staff will be working on the template to come up with an updated version.

- WSFR Issues

- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA)

Since 2007, AFWA has applied a 20% cap on indirect costs for Multistate Conservation Grant proposals for those applicants that have an approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA). WSFR recognizes AFWA's statutory role in recommending priority proposals for funding under the Multistate Conservation Grant program, and AFWA's authority to recommend proposals that deviate from recipients' negotiated indirect cost rates. Federal regulations issued in December 2014 require that Federal agencies must accept a recipient's negotiated indirect cost rate, unless otherwise required by Federal statute or regulation or unless approved by the awarding agency head. As long as AFWA maintains the 20% cap on indirect costs for recipients that have NICRAs, WSFR will continue to award grants that comply with AFWA's 20% cap on indirect costs. As required by 2 CFR 200, WSFR will notify OMB of the deviation and publish a justification for the deviation in WSFR's annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in Grants.gov. This is an additional step in the approval process for Multistate grants, so there is potential for delay in the approval of awards.

- Possible Peer Review

Sometimes reports lack the information they need to transmit. They have technical issues as well as they don't report on objectives. There is opportunity to have high quality reports if we have peer review.

- Discussion of NGC – MSCGP Principles

This committee might want to come up with some guideline principles like Executive Committee has its principles. It's good to create a document that lays out some guidelines how committee function, criteria we have agreed on, etc.

- New Business

No new business

Action Items

- AFWA staff will work on updating the proposal template to better align it with scoring criteria.
- AFWA staff will work on drafting a documents on guiding principles

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM

Submitted by: Nick Wiley